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630 Malcolm X Blvd, 16F New York, NY 10037 Admitted: NY, NJ

The Law Office of James M. Schmitz

(929) 263-4599 james@jmslaw.net

VIA ECF

September 28, 2023

The Honorable P. Kevin Castel United States District Judge United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, New York 10007

RE:

<u>United States v. Henderson, et al.</u> 02-cr-00451 (PKC)

ames Schmits

Dear Judge Castel:

I am pro bono counsel for Charrod Becton, a defendant in the above matter.

In connection with Mr. Becton's forthcoming habeas corpus petition alleging ineffective assistance of counsel, I would like to confer with the investigator(s) who previously worked on his case. Given the age of the case, his prior attorneys do not have a clear recollection of which investigators were involved. Accordingly I reached out the CJA Office to ask about CJA investigator vouchers, which might provide some leads.

I recently spoke to the very helpful Assistant Director of Criminal Case Operations Tracy Miller at the CJA Office. Assistant Director Miller informed me that her office normally would not retain records in such an old case. Nevertheless she believes that e-voucher records may exist in an older database, which is still maintained but no longer used.

According to Assistant Director Miller, accessing the older database would require that your Honor endorse a formal request to that effect.

I therefore respectfully request that your Honor endorse or otherwise authorize the staff of the CJA Office to access the older database for this one-time, limited purpose.

Respectfully,

James Schmitz